

The monthly bulletin of the
Bar Hill Residents Association,
distributed to all residents

New Residents

We welcome this month:

Mr. and Mrs. Bamford, 58 Oatlands Avenue ✓
Mr. and Mrs. Fowler, 75 Oatlands Avenue ✓
Mr. and Mrs. Jones, 73 Oatlands Avenue ✓
Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 76 Oatlands Avenue ✓
Mr. and Mrs. Partis, 85 Appletree Road. ✓

Special Parish Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday, 1st February at 8.00 p.m. in the School Hall.

In face of the possibility that the only way to avoid a prolonged delay in the preparation of the Village Green, would be for the Village to pay for the scheme, the Parish Council proposes to raise a rate of 3.3 new pence. It can on its own authority raise a rate of 1.7 new pence; to raise the higher rate will need the approval of a Parish Meeting.

The matter is urgent because Chesterton R.D.C. need to know early in February the precept required for 1972/73. Please do your best to attend this very important meeting.

A. Parrott ✓

Wives Group

We have offered to raise money for the kitchen equipment in the Church Centre. For the next few months we shall be making a concerted effort to do this.

We are having a Jumble Stall in Cambridge on 24th February. Please save all your Jumble for collection on Tuesday, 22nd February. If anyone is willing to help please inform: Penny Fromant, 15 Almond Grove, or Val Page, 39 Partridge Drive.

Our most recent sale realised about £70, plus £11 for the jumble left over.

Singing for Pleasure

We shall start rehearsing music for the Easter festival on Thursday, 10th February at 8 p.m. in the School; everyone is very welcome to join us.

BaHDS

How would you like to be one of the only two remaining men in a world of women? This is the situation the BaHDS find themselves in in their next production "No time for Fig Leaves" by Duncan Greenwood and Robert King. Watch for further details.

With any luck, people at the back should be able to actually SEE our next production. Through the generosity of the Developers we are building a STAGE for our next production.

Belated thanks to Andrew McCulloch (emergency exit sign batteries), Keymarkets (draw prize), the Mid-Anglia Constabulary (police uniform), and last but not least to our audience for turning out on a cold December evening and making our last presentation such a success.

New members would be most welcome. We meet at 19 Almond Grove, Mondays, 8 p.m. Or contact our producer Peter Headland, Crafts Hill 473.

Guides

Any girls between the ages of 10 and 16 who would like to join the Girl Guides, please fill in the form below and return as soon as possible to either: Mrs. Harbottle, 32 Partridge Drive, or Mrs. Wilkins, 6 Almond Grove ✓

Name

Address

Date of birth Have you been in the Guides before? YES/NO

Found

Recorder: please apply to Mrs. Palmann, 17 Acorn Avenue (Crafts Hill 531).

Annual Parish Meeting

This will be held on Wednesday, 29th March at 7.30 p.m. in the School Hall.

In past years Village organisations have made reports, usually about 5 minutes, to the Meeting, about their activities and plans. Would any organisations wishing to make such a report let me know, by 15th February if possible and certainly by the end of February. These reports have been a feature of past Meetings and it is one the Parish Council would like to continue.

A. Parrott, 2 Acorn Avenue
(Crafts Hill 329)

Points from Parish Council Meetings

Tree Preservation Order. Negotiations with the Trees and Woodlands Department of the County Council have resulted in the preparation of a Preservation Order that would cover virtually all the existing trees and hedgerows, inside and on the boundaries of Bar Hill, with the exception of those along the ditch beyond Phase 6; this ditch will be piped as the building proceeds. The Order will be considered by the appropriate committee before the end of February.

Goal Posts. Goal Posts, provided by the Developers for use on the area in front of Cambridge Consultants, were due to be completed by 23rd January.

The 8.15 a.m. bus (service 151). Information collected by survey of passengers travelling at that particular time, is being used in an attempt to persuade the Bus Company to bring a bus into the Village at that time.

Village Green. A programme of work, costing £2,500, to prepare the Green has been received by the Council. The Parish Council are now exploring ways of raising the money in order to bring the Green into use as soon as possible.

Seats for Village Park. It was agreed at the January meeting to purchase two 6 ft. teak public seats, to be sited, with the Developers' agreement, in the Village Park.

Best Kept Village Competition. The Parish Council decided to enter the 1972 Competition because it felt that this would help improve the image of the Village.

Exit Road/A 604 Junction. Any improvement on the present situation will have to await the Ministry decisions regarding the A604 and the building of the fly-over.

Bar Hill Horticultural Society

Many members took advantage last year of the gardening shop which we ran to supply peat, compost, various fertilisers and other gardening requisites at reduced prices. We shall be opening again on Sunday, 20th February, and every Sunday after, from the garage in front of 25 Otter Close, between 11.45 a.m. and 12.45.

Garden Stall at School Fete

The School Fete will be held again this year in mid-May, when, as previously, a garden stall is planned. This has been successful in the past, and after last year's experience it is felt that we could sell, to the benefit of our children, a lot more shrubs, herbaceous plants, rooted cuttings, young plants, etc. than have been offered previously (when house plants have predominated). Would Villagers please keep this in mind when tidying their gardens this spring. For any enquiries concerning suitability of material, please contact me.

Ron Page (Crafts Hill 243)

Swavesey Village College

The Village College "Cygnet" magazine was recently delivered free to all households in Bar Hill with a special questionnaire for Bar Hill residents inside, to find out what classes we should be offering in Bar Hill in September 1972. There has been quite a good response so far, but we would be grateful if you could remember to fill it in, if you have not already done so, so that our collectors can call on you on 4th, 5th and 6th February. Please sign the form when you have filled it in.

P. Toogood, Warden

Bar Hill Residents Association

From the Secretary's Notepad

Park Path. The Developers have approved of our suggestion that a path be laid across the Park, connecting it with the industrial development. They have issued instructions for a temporary path to be laid; we hope those residents concerned will be able to use it soon.

Telephone Charges. In reply to our letter to the Telephone Manager querying the charge for installation of phones to new houses in the Village, Mr. J. Harkin, Sales Superintendent advise us as follows:

£25 - provision of service to subscriber's premises, all wiring being brought into service for the first time.

£20 - provision of service as above for removing subscriber.

N.B. Both the above charges can be reduced by £5 if only external wiring is required, i.e., if the telephone is connected to the terminal block for the external wiring - as is the case in Bar Hill.

So, residents should be paying only £20 for the installation of a phone in new houses, provided that the phone is not required in another room or in a location that requires the provision of internal wiring.

Any queries? Please contact Mr. Harkin if you think you have been overcharged.

Road Safety. We and other interested parties will be meeting representatives from the County Surveyor's Department on Friday, 28th January to discuss Road Safety in the Village. We shall publish their comments and recommendations in the next issue of this Newsletter to enable residents to give their views.

Refuse Sacks. In reply to our letter concerning the problem of dogs attacking the refuse sacks, Mr. E. B. Newman, Chief Public Health Inspector, regrets he has no ready answer as this is the first complaint he has received from the 53 villages within his area. However he makes the following suggestions: 1) Householders could delay putting out their bags until early Thursday morning, just before collection time. 2) Refuse bags could be sealed and left in the dustbins and the latter left out for the collectors to empty. If anyone has any other ideas please let us know - but we would still request proper control of dogs during this time.

Village Park Lagoons. Mr. Newman has inspected the lagoons in the Park and he is of the opinion that the mud, etc., which collects in the bottom should be the object of regular maintenance; he has written to the Developers, suggesting this. Mr. Newman did make the point, that there was no indication of any foul matter in the Lagoons at the time of his visit, and we must therefore thank Villagers for their co-operation in response to our earlier appeal not to allow oil, etc., into the road drains.

The problem of surface water drainage for the whole area, including Bar Hill and the new highway developments, is already the subject of a special report being prepared for the Great Ouse River Authority, and no doubt any proposed alteration would be considered in the light of this report.

The Mall. Following a complaint about the untidiness of the Mall, we wrote to the Parish Council and it is now being swept regularly. The Developers are emptying the litter bins regularly but say they "find it difficult to cope with the habits of the Residents who prefer to drop their litter on the ground rather than in the bins."

Phase 2 Mud. The Developers are now having the perimeter road leading to Phase 2 scraped every day. However, it is a losing battle at this time of year, but at least the effort is being made.

Signposts. We have been asked by a resident to see if signposts to direct people, including potential house-buyers, around the Village. We have written to the Developers, asking for their comments.

Village Fete. The Horticultural Society have asked the Association to discover whether a Village Fete or Fair could be organised to coincide with their Summer Flower Show. We have written to the Village organisations asking for their views. If sufficient are in favour, a meeting will be arranged to discuss ideas and a date.

New Shops. In reply to a letter to the Commercial Department of Bar Hill Developments Ltd. we have been advised that interest in the empty shops is now increasing as the Village population increases. Negotiations are at present being pursued with one unit for the purposes of a fried fish and chip shop. The present position regarding Keymarkets is that the Developers are now obtaining a Counsel's opinion as to the extent of this tenant's monopolistic powers, which are provided for in the lease under which they occupy the premises. May we say how pleased we were to see the D.I.Y. shop re-open. Let's hope "J.B." is pleased as well!

Village Aerial System. Villagers recently received a letter from the Developers concerning the TV reception which asked for answers to a questionnaire. The BHRA are very concerned about the points raised, and also those not mentioned, and would therefore wish to make the following points clear to Villagers:

The letter itself gives the impression that residents are being asked to choose between the present system and a return to the old communal aerial. This is not so: the communal aerial is no longer serviceable and a completely new system would have to be installed.

The first three questions, concerning: quality of reception, appearance of the external aerials, and possible reinstatement of the communal aerial, are most important, but no space is left for a reply, not even yes/no. Theoretically, the choice is between retaining the present system or a new communal system.

The letter now leaves some very important questions to be answered:

(1) Leases issued to Residents before October 1971 contained the clause that the Developers will provide and maintain a communal TV and Band 2 VHF Radio Aerial. Leases issued after October 1971 have this clause deleted - yet the Developers' letter was delivered to all Residents indiscriminately. So, if the Developers get planning permission to retain the present system of external aerials, what happens to the pre-Oct. 1971 leases? Who pays for alteration of the lease; or alternatively, how can houses be resold by people holding these leases, if this clause cannot be upheld?

(2) What arrangements will be made to provide residents with VHF radio reception?

(3) The Developers claim that the external aerials are their property. Who then is responsible for injury to person or property if, say, one of the aerials is blown down? Who is responsible for maintenance if they should prove fault or become misaligned?

(4) What refund will be made to residents who, before these external aerials were fitted in Oct. 1971 fitted their own, from sheer frustration at the malfunction of the communal aerial?

(5) It has been suggested that about £1 is used from our annual Maintenance charge to provide and maintain the communal aerial; if the present external aerials are retained, will this amount be deducted from our annual payment?

The Residents Assn. have obtained legal advice about possible enforcement of the clause concerning provision of the TV and VHF aerial in pre-1971 leases, and we could, if residents wish, take action to see that this clause is enforced.

The County Planning Dept. advise us that they are not in favour of the present external aerials and are actively pursuing this matter with the Developers.

The Assn. wrote to the Developers in October 1971 asking for explanations. Their reply stated "We regret that we are not in a position to answer your queries at the present time, because there are considerably more external aerials than was anticipated and we were looking into various ways of overcoming these eyesores." Hardly satisfactory, especially in view of the recent letter to Villagers, which would suggest that they are still seeking permission for these "eyesores".

Whilst most Villagers consider that reception is better than with the old communal system, we feel that a clear announcement of the Developers' plans would be helpful; if necessary we could hold a public meeting to answer these questions.

The Editor and Committee would welcome your comments and suggestions on these, or any other points.

Neighbourhood Council

As planned, the next meeting will take place at 8.15 p.m. on ~~Thursday~~, 8th February. It is hoped that representatives of all groups will come and report progress since the last meeting. And of course anyone who is interested in the N.C. plan will be welcome.

Rodney Dale

Bar Hill Motoring Association

We have got off to a good start, with over seventy members so far; newcomers will be particularly welcome to our next meeting on 23rd February. A talk on the 1971 RAC rally will be given by two people who took part.

Our March meeting will be a day at the races: Snetterton, on Good Friday (main event: Rothman F5000 European Championship Car Race). John Berry, landlord of the "Fox" is our Social Secretary and is taking bookings at £1.75 - this covers bus fare, entrance to circuit and paddock, but not beer!

We note that junior residents do not get any guidance on road safety, and thought it worth while to ask if anyone would be willing to run a Tufty Club? It would be run by mothers, with guidance from the organisers, and we would need four helpers, and probably premises.

Please contact me, at the next meeting or before, if you are interested in our association. Richard Dupont, 19 Otter Close (Crafts Hill 273)

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(The Editor apologises to contributors on side 4 of this Newsletter, whose articles had to be shortened for reasons of space.)

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